

BY SPIKE WASHINGTON

JACKSONVILLE, Fla.--(Special)-- Newark's fancy fielding, hard slugging and colorful Eagles of the National Negro Baseball League, have wound up their annual spring training drills here and are homeward bound filled with spirit, inspiration and enthusiasm.

The classy club, studded with stars and a large number of promising first year men, has closed one of the finest and most successful spring sessions in the history of the club's ~~open~~ operation, and on hand in this land of Sunshine and Flowers to aid Manager Biz Mackay, star ball-tosser himself, in putting their charges through their spring training chores, has been Owner and President of the Eagles, Abe Manley, veteran baseball magnate, who has expressed delight and gratification at the manner in which the drills were gone through, the spirit and fight of the players, their cooperative actions, and the general smooth running of all business operations.

Play On Way Up

The weather here has been fine. It has been just warm enough to suit Messers Manley and Mackay and the players have been tickled to be able to bask in such bright sunshine each day in their training sessions in Jacksonville's Wilder Park, where they have spent more than three weeks under the most rigid and strenous training. The club was in fine fettle in their opening exhibition game here two weeks ago when they licked the Jacksonville Eagles of the Southern Negro League before a record crowd. The lads from Newark were even greater when they met and defeated the same local Eagles by the scores of 16 to 8 and 7 to 2 on Monday and Tuesday nights respectively. The pitchers, except Leon Day and Max Manning, were a bit shaky in these engagements, but the hitters were pounding the horsehide far and wide, principal among these being the towering homer out of the park on Tuesday night by big Harvey, Newark rightfielder, and the four for five slugging Monday night by Backstop Parks. Another who has his eye on the ball is Pearson, brilliant initial sack guardian, who on Tuesday night had four for five.

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C Others who hit well in the game with the Jacksonville Eagles were Watkins, sensational young second sacker, and he has also fielded his position in great style; Irvin, powerful knocking centerfielder, who has been getting plenty of wood on the horsehide, and fielding flawlessly, accepting all chances so far without an error and getting three for six Monday night. Hitting the ball hard, but hitting into the waiting hands of some enemy is Davis, crack left gardner, who got two for five Tuesday night.

C Harvey, the giant outfielder, has not been burning the world up, but he brought smiles to the faces of his bosses Tuesday night with his mighty homer out of the park, after rapping two for five the night before. A youngster, who has not been fielding any too good, but every now and then turning in a sensational play, is Doby, shortfielder, who brought the stands to their feet Tuesday with a play across second on which he got his man. He also garnered a double Monday night, driving in two runs.

C Isreal, youthful third sack guardian, has not been going so good at the plate, but he has been playing magnificent ball afield. Manager Mackay caught the full Tuesday game and was his old self. He came across with one timely blow to crash the hit column.

C Among the tossers Day looked great on his outing, as did Lewis and Manning. Others tesserers who are looking good and are ready to take their turns on the mound are Hocker, who was laid low from injuries for about five days, but who is back with his ~~teammates~~ mates, and Coles and Boyd, two lads who are expected to hurl fine ball during the season. These two boys look great in spring practice and have fine chances of becoming stars of the first magnitude. All in all the team is in fine fettle and ready for the tough season ahead. ~~It will be played~~ Moy

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There will be played several games in Tampa, then back to this city for a day, and the trek north, where they will stop off and play games in Richmond and vicinity. The club will do some work in their home park, Ruppert stadium, and then go over to Philadelphia for the opening of the league season there.

The Eagles will return from Philadelphia with the Philadelphia club, to open their season at home ^(on Sunday, May 5) giving the Newark fans the chance to see the 1946 edition of the Newark Eagle club. Jacksonville was please and proud to have the Eagles here and enjoyed the association of Mr. Manley, Manager Mackay and their men.

